United Nations A/61/281

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 66 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The Secretary-General submits the present report in response to General Assembly resolution 60/152 in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek further the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system on the issue of globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights and to submit a substantive report on this subject to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session. The report summarizes replies received in response to a request for information sent pursuant to the resolution. Responses were received from the Governments of Guatemala and Croatia and from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

* A/61/150.

** The present report was submitted after the deadline in order to incorporate information received recently.

06-47617 (E) 140906

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 60/152, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/60/301 and Add.1) and requested the Secretary-General to seek further the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and to submit a substantive report on this subject to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 15 May 2006, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) sent a request for views on this issue. As of 8 August 2006, OHCHR had received responses from the Governments of Guatemala and Croatia and from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

II. Replies received from Governments

Croatia

[Original: English]
[28 July 2006]

The Government of the Republic of Croatia noted that globalization is a complex process of structural reform, with numerous interdisciplinary aspects, which can have a bearing on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as upon the stratification of society, potentially leading to poverty and exclusion. In response to some of the challenges posed by globalization, the Government had prepared "The Joint Memorandum on Social Inclusion in the Republic of Croatia". According to this document, particular attention will be paid to challenges in the following areas:

(a) The development of an inclusive labour market and the promotion of employment, perceived as rights, and of opportunities for all Croatian citizens, especially in respect of long-term unemployment, older workers, persons with special needs, etc.;

(b) Overcoming educational shortcomings through a reform of the education system as one of the key prerequisites for reducing poverty and social exclusion;

(c) Equal access to health care;

(d) Adequate housing for all — devising a national housing policy, including the provision of housing for vulnerable groups;

(e) Accessible and adequate social services — decentralization and deinstitutionalization, cooperation and partnership between the State, the private sector and non-governmental organizations;

(f) Guaranteeing everyone minimum means of subsistence via work and/or the welfare system;

(g) Balanced regional development and revitalization of the deprived war-afflicted regions.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[29 August 2005 and 8 August 2006][1]

1. The Government of Guatemala noted that, with regard to globalization, Guatemala has initiated a series of agreements on free trade, economic association, and cooperation and political dialogue with other countries. These agreements were expected to lead to increased and improved choices for consumers, Guatemalan producers and foreign investors and to have a positive impact on the general population, contributing to the attainment of a better standard of living.

2. The Government of Guatemala has taken a series of measures to ensure, to the extent possible, that the processes of globalization, affecting the economic, political and social spheres, do not negatively affect the most vulnerable segments of the population. One of these measures is the government programme *'Vamos Guatemala'* aiming at eliminating poverty and providing welfare and development to all the people of Guatemala. The programme consists of three strategic components: *Guate Crece*, *Guate Solidaria* and *Guate Compite*. From January to May 2006, *Guate Crece*, covering efforts to stimulate the economy, registered positive results, with GDP growth estimated at 4-4.4 per cent for 2006. *Guate Solidaria*, covering efforts to alleviate poverty and increase access to education and health care, registered results below expectations.

3. The Government noted that regional integration is the best strategy to meet the challenges of globalization. In this regard, efforts are being made to strengthen the Central American Customs Union (*Union Aduanera Centroamericana*). Equally, the Agreement on the Single Visa (*Convenio de Creación de la Visa Única*) has been signed by the Presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, a Central American passport has been introduced, and measures have been taken to facilitate the free movement of vehicles and goods.

4. Guatemala is a party to the Treaty on Free Trade (*Tratado de Libre Comercio*) with Mexico and to the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) with the United States, which entered into force on 1 July 2006. Guatemala has also signed the Treaty on Free Trade with Taiwan and a partial agreement (*Acuardo de Alcance Parcial*) with Belize, and is currently negotiating trade agreements with Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and the European Union. The Government highlighted the challenge of ensuring that free trade agreements do not impact negatively on vulnerable sectors, especially small and medium-sized businesses and farmers. In response to concerns of various sectors of civil society, especially those groups monitoring the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights, various lines of action are under consideration.

5. The Government noted that the ratification of the Treaty on Free Trade has made it necessary to establish a legal framework that facilitates compensation for those sectors which are unprotected or lack the capacity to be competitive. In this regard, the Congress, by Legislative Agreement No. 16-2005 of 9 March 2005,

[1] The contribution by the Government of Guatemala includes information submitted in response to a request pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/184, which, due to its late submission, was not included in the Secretary-General's report on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights of 2005 (A/60/301).

committed itself to approving a series of compensatory laws between 2005 and 2006.

6. Guatemala recently joined the G-33 group within the framework of the agricultural negotiations of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The G-33 group, consisting of various developing countries, aims at ensuring preferential treatment and safeguard mechanisms for agricultural products. The Government stated that the work of the G-33 group assisted Guatemalan producers to pay more attention to the production necessities of trade liberalization.

7. Since the Peace Agreement of 1996, efforts have been made to rebuild the social fabric, fragmented by the armed conflict, and to promote a culture of peace. In this regard, the Government of Guatemala acknowledged that an environment of respect for human rights, equality and tolerance is required for a State to be able to develop economically and in a humane manner. To promote such an environment, the Government stated that it had implemented the following initiatives: workshops for young promoters of a culture of peace; the establishment of peace commissions in a number of municipalities; a campaign to promote fundamental values such as tolerance, respect for cultural diversity and democracy; folkloric street performances (*convites*) promoting a culture of peace; and an initiative of intersectoral dialogue (*Mesa Intersectorial de Diálogo*) under the auspices of the United Nations system in Guatemala and the Organization of American States.

8. The Government stated that increasing levels of common and organized crime posed a serious problem. Combined with other causes, problems of unemployment, lack of opportunities and insufficient support to the development of small enterprises have led many young people, and even adults, to join gangs which are involved in common crime, especially youth gangs known as *maras*. In response to this difficult problem the Government has implemented a public policy for the prevention of youth violence, officially presented on 14 June 2005. The central objective of this policy is to address the structural causes of violence and provide greater opportunities for young people, through employment, education, recreational activities, etc. The Government also noted that it had established a joint police force with El Salvador to protect trade and tourism in the border region.

9. The Government also provided information on the programme Fighting Exclusion in Guatemala (*Lucha Contra las Exclusiones in Guatemala*) (2004-2008), funded by the European Commission. The programme involves 50 municipalities and its general objective is to contribute to the social, economic and political inclusion of poor rural women, particularly indigenous women. To this end, the programme seeks to strengthen the capacity of government institutions, Congress and civil society organizations in order to ensure inclusion of rural and indigenous women in the development and institutionalization of public policies.

10. The Government noted that continuous efforts are required and that more measures must be taken, in a consistent and progressive manner, in order to guarantee the effective protection of human rights and protect the population, especially the most vulnerable sectors, including children, women, older people, indigenous peoples and peoples with disabilities, against the negative effects of globalization.

III. Replies received from United Nations organizations

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[Original: English]
[31 July 2006]

1. The secretariat of UNCTAD, Division of Globalization and Development Strategies (GDS), provided information on its activities on globalization and human rights in relation to the issues of (a) globalization and development; and (b) trade and gender.

2. With regard to the issue of globalization and development, it was noted that UNCTAD does not normally refer to human rights as such in its analysis of globalization. However, given the close relationship between human rights and social and economic development, the discussion of the development implications of globalization has human right dimensions. Some of the main findings of UNCTAD analyses on "globalization and development" are presented in its annual *Trade and Development Reports*.

3. UNCTAD began to present its analyses of globalization in the *Reports* in the 1990s when the "Washington Consensus" evolved as the mainstream policy framework. *Trade and Development Report 1997* looked at the benefits and costs of globalization and referred to the concept of globalization as both "an increasing flow of goods and resources across national borders" and "the emergence of a complementary set of organizational structures to manage the expanding network of international economic activity and transactions" (p.70). Contemporary globalization was considered to be a process heavily influenced by policy choices including, in particular, liberalization.

4. The UNCTAD analysis was sceptical with regard to the argument that globalization was strengthening the case for further liberalization. *Trade and Development Report 1997* argued that globalization had not led to economic convergence, as only a few developing countries were catching up with the developed countries and most were experiencing slower growth and greater instability following the "unleashing of market forces" in the early 1980s. The report indicated that rapid liberalization had led to greater income inequality and to a hollowing out of the middle class.

5. Later UNCTAD reports, such as *Trade and Development Report 1999* and *Trade and Development Report 2003*, continued to provide critical assessments of globalization. The reports argued that globalization had resulted in a fundamental transformation in the relationship between the balance of payments and economic growth, so that growth entailed greater external deficits. Moreover, the need to finance growing external deficits was seen to have encouraged financial liberalization, leading in turn to currency appreciations and instability which undermined trade performance. National economies have become increasingly dependent on external capital, which, within the current international financial architecture, was exposing countries to speculative flows and financial crises. The existing international trade regime had also complicated development prospects owing to continuing tariff peaks and other market access barriers in rich industrial countries as well as increasing restrictions on the policy space of developing countries to build up the international competitiveness of their domestic enterprise.

6. In short, the secretariat of UNCTAD stated that globalization (as the manifestation of liberalization policy) has often negatively affected the general stability and growth of countries and tended to polarize income distribution, both nationally and internationally. The inference from these findings is that globalization may have negatively affected the full implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

7. With regard to the issue of trade and gender, the secretariat of UNCTAD pointed out that gender equality has been persistently defined within the United Nations system as a fundamental human right. While women's labour participation has increased and the gender-based wage gap has narrowed in many countries (most of them industrialized), women remain disadvantaged in terms of their role and position in the economic and political arenas in most countries.

8. UNCTAD has been involved in an effort to assess the impacts of trade on gender equality, serving as task master for a task force on gender and trade set up by the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality in 2003. A 2004 publication of this task force, entitled *Trade and Gender: Opportunities and Challenges for Development*, reviews the impact of trade liberalization on gender equality, explores the impact that existing multilateral trade rules have on the pursuit of gender equality, and examines various concrete approaches to improving the gender sensitivity of both international trade activities and policymaking. The major findings of this publication are summarized as follows.

9. First, international trade has often contributed to the redistribution of income in favour of women, because it has generated employment and business opportunities in the manufacturing and services sectors. Thus, not only is the status of women in society and within their households enhanced by their capacity to earn income; countries as a whole also benefit from women's work as it significantly contributes to export competitiveness and industrial diversification.

10. Second, in other cases, women, particularly poor women, have been made worse off, as in the agricultural sector, where groups of women often suffer from increased marginalization as a result of the growing competition brought about by trade liberalization.

11. Third, the analysis of the gender impact of trade needs to be done at a country- and sector-specific level. Female workers are concentrated in labour-intensive sectors, and the barriers to entry to these industries are generally low.

12. Fourth, a redistribution of income within households has enhanced the status of women, but gender inequalities often persist in the form of wage gaps, job segregation (women being confined to low-status jobs), and weak access to basic services (such as health and education) and resources.

13. Fifth, an examination of multilateral trade rules does not lead to clear conclusions. In a few limited instances, existing norms can create some constraint on the ability of Governments to pursue gender equality through domestic policies and measures. It is from this perspective that the impact of some World Trade Organization multilateral trade agreements have been analysed. Furthermore, as gender equality is a fundamental human right, the interface between the human rights legal framework and international trade law obligations remains important in the context of promoting sustainable human development.

United Nations A/61/282

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 115 of the provisional agenda*
Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Identification of additional resources for the Development Account

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report has been prepared in compliance with paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 60/246, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide recommendations on how additional resources in the region of $5 million could be added to the Development Account. The report provides background information on the inception of the Development Account and the measures pursued to establish its current level of funding.

It is noted in the report that "savings", the proposed source of funding of the Development Account, are difficult to identify and have, in any case, been retained by programme managers to meet their own requirements, and that the availability of additional resources in the region of $5 million for the Development Account can only be considered in the light of all other activities for which funds are sought. Financial regulations 5.3 and 5.4 regarding regular budget surpluses to be returned to Member States have, on occasion, been suspended as a measure to deal with the Organization's financial problems or in order to finance specific activities related to the reform of intergovernmental machinery or restructuring of the Secretariat.

The General Assembly is requested to take note of the present report and of the fact that any decision to increase funding for the Development Account would be taken in the light of competing priorities that exist for the use of the overall United Nations programme budget.

* A/61/150.

** The delay in submission was caused by the time taken to evaluate the implications of various methods under consideration for recommendation to the General Assembly, increased workload and unexpected staff separation.

06-47579 (E) 130906

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of the Development Account is outlined in paragraphs 34.6 and 34.7 of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/60/6 (Sect. 34)). In paragraph 14 of its resolution 60/246, the General Assembly decided that the Development Account should be recosted for the biennium 2006-2007 and, in that context, requested the Secretary-General to pursue the relevant proposals contained in his report (A/59/397) and to provide to the Assembly at its sixty-first session recommendations on how additional resources in the region of 5 million dollars could be added to the Development Account. The present report addresses the issue of the identification of additional resources for the Development Account.

2. The proposals, contained in section VII of the aforementioned report of the Secretary-General, are as follows:

(a) A statement of objective was suggested:

> "The objective of the Development Account is to fund medium-term technical cooperation projects (up to four years for implementation, following approval of the project document) in the priority areas of the implementing entities and that benefit multiple developing countries by encouraging cooperative efforts between various United Nations programmes in innovative cross-sectoral and regional or interregional activities and which are based mainly on the technical, human and other resources available in developing countries";

(b) It was recalled that the initial funding level for the Development Account was established in 1997 on the basis of savings from reductions in administration and other overhead costs identified in the Secretariat from the reform programme of the Secretary-General. The General Assembly also established the savings identified at that time as the base level of funding for future years, noting that future verifiable and sustainable savings could be added to the account. While the latter provision was well intentioned, its impact has been that no further savings have been identified for transfer to the Development Account. In fact, programme managers have invariably retained whatever savings have accrued within a programme to meet rising demands for service within their programmes. Accordingly, any future increase in funding levels for the Development Account should be considered in the light of competing priorities that exist for the use of the overall United Nations programme budget.

II. Background

3. It is recalled that the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950), contained recommendations and actions (21 and 22) pertaining to the reduction of overhead costs and the Development Account. They were further elaborated on in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Creating a dividend for development" (A/51/950/Add.5).

4. At that time, the underlying assumption for the creation of a Development Account was that any gains achieved as a result of productivity improvements, such as streamlining and simplification of processes and procedures, would become a

permanent component of the Account. Accordingly, once a productivity gain had been identified and achieved, approval by the General Assembly would be sought for the transfer of the associated resources into the budget section of the Account. It would thus reflect a redeployment of productivity gains in the administrative areas to the Account. Over time, additional funds would be transferred from productivity gains until the Account reaches a level of $200 million. Reductions in administrative costs would be sought without reducing the ability of the Organization to deliver its mandated programmes. Each proposed programme budget would therefore include the amount approved for the Account in the previous programme budget, supplemented by any additional productivity gains achieved during the prior biennium and any prospective productivity gains anticipated in the forthcoming biennium. Once the target level of transfer is attained, the Account will become sustainable through the existing budget appropriation process. This procedure was further elaborated on in detail in the reports of the Secretary-General on the Development Account (A/52/1009) and on the reduction and refocusing of non-programme costs (A/52/758).

5. The Development Account was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/12 B, section H, paragraph 24, in the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, to be funded from savings from possible reductions in administration and other overhead costs, without affecting full implementation of mandated programmes and activities. In that regard, the amounts of (a) $12,702,700, identified in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations reform: measures and proposals (A/52/303); and (b) $362,300 resulting from the abolition of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development (see Assembly resolution 52/220, part III, para. 106) have been transferred to the Account and the related appropriation of $13,065,000 was approved by the Assembly in its resolution 52/221.

6. In its resolution 54/15, the General Assembly decided to establish a special multi-year account for supplementary development activities based on the priority objectives of the programmes of the approved medium-term plan. Guidelines for the operation of the account were provided, as follows:

(a) Efficiency measures and the resultant transfer of savings should not lead to a process of budgetary reduction and should not result in the involuntary separation of staff;

(b) Efficiency measures and the redeployment of savings to the Development Account should not adversely affect the full implementation of the programme;

(c) Savings to be achieved as a result of efficiency measures could be identified in the context of budget performance reports and should be transferred to the Development Account section with the prior approval of the General Assembly;

(d) Savings transferred to the Development Account section should form the maintenance base for that section in future proposed programme budgets;

(e) The Development Account should be operated strictly in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

7. As recalled in paragraph 4 above, the indicative target of cumulative savings of some $200 million was mentioned in a subsequent note of the Secretary-General on the utilization of the Development Account (A/52/848). It is a figure that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered to be overambitious (A/52/894, para. 7), noting that "the current financial situation of the Organization also presents a serious problem for this exercise, especially when the Secretariat is being called upon increasingly to absorb the costs of new mandates that arise during the course of the biennium". In paragraph 11 of the report of the Secretary-General on the Development Account (A/52/1009), submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 52/235, and in the subsequent report of the Secretary-General on the modalities for operating the Account (A/53/945, annex Ib), the more precise figure of $40 million was provided. The Advisory Committee, in paragraph 10 of its related report (A/53/7/Add.12), noted that "the amount of $40 million should instead read $53 million — to include the $13 million already appropriated for the biennium 2000-2001" and recommended to the Assembly to approve the proposals of the Secretary-General on the procedures for transfer of resources released as a result of productivity gains to the Development Account budget section.

8. According to the introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/6, para. 43), once the General Assembly had completed its consideration of the Development Account, the Secretary-General would be in a position to report to the Assembly on the specific measures which he would intend to apply in the context of implementing the budget for the biennium 2001-2002. Those measures would be aimed at securing further efficiencies, largely in the administrative areas, so as to ensure better overall resource utilization and thereby facilitate the identification of resources that might be transferred to the Development Account.

9. As stated in the introduction to the proposed programme budgets for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6, para. 57) and for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6, para. 14), efficiency measures and performance measurement do not yield immediate savings in dollar terms, but they do enable programme managers to be better organized and more results-oriented. In many cases, where there have been savings in dollar terms, programme managers have redirected those resources to priority areas within their budget sections or towards the implementation of new mandates instead of proposing additional funding. To date, however, no efficiency savings have been identified and proposed to be transferred to the Development Account.

III. Established procedure for the identification and transfer of savings to the Development Account

10. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/52/7/Rev.1), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, after examining the report of the Management Reform Group entitled "United Nations 21 — Accelerating Managerial Reform for Results" (see A/51/873), pointed out that there was a difference between demonstrated true savings as against actual past or current appropriation and expenditures and the notional value of what might have been spent if something had or had not been done. Moreover, true

savings were achieved by reducing costs while continuing to produce the same or better results, but an economy that resulted in an unacceptable inferior product or lower standard or service was a false economy.

11. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee (A/52/7/Add.10 and A/53/7/Add.1), it is important to bear in mind that, consistent with paragraph 24 of General Assembly resolution 52/12 B, the identification and transfer of savings to the Development Account is not a budget reduction exercise but one of redeployment. The total budgetary amount and related assessments would remain the same both before and after the redeployment. Proposals related to efficiency measures should form a distinct part of the performance report and be treated separately from information on changes related to currency fluctuation and actual inflation rates that are lower than the budgetary assumptions. Consequently, gains from currency fluctuation and inflation rate variances would not be available for transfer to the Development Account, nor would savings that are due to underexpenditure as a result of the postponement of activities or the inability to carry out approved mandates and programmes. The latter category of savings should be separately identified in performance reports.

12. In summary, in order to be transferred to the Development Account, resources identified as savings should meet a number of conditions as defined in various General Assembly resolutions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The transfer of such savings:

(a) Should not affect the full implementation of mandated programmes and activities;

(b) Should not lead to a process of budgetary reduction and should not result in the involuntary separation of staff;

(c) Should be achieved if costs are reduced while the level and quality of services are maintained or further improved;

(d) Should be indicated as the actual results of efficiency initiatives to the satisfaction of the General Assembly before approval for redeployment;

(e) Should only include productivity gains that have been verified and deemed to be sustainable.

IV. Possibility of identifying and transferring savings

13. According to an independent review, efficiency in the public sector involves making the best use of the resources available for the provision of public services.[1] The review defines as "efficiencies" those reforms of the delivery process and resource (including workforce) utilization that achieve:

(a) Reduced numbers of inputs (e.g. people or assets), while maintaining the same level of service provision; or

(b) Lower prices for the resources needed to provide public services; or

[1] Sir Peter Gershon, *Independent review of public sector efficiency: Releasing resources to the front line*, July 2004.

(c) Additional outputs, such as enhanced quality or quantity of services, for the same level of inputs; or

(d) Improved ratios of outputs per unit cost of input; or

(e) Changing the balance between different outputs aimed at delivering a similar overall objective in a way which achieves a greater overall output for the same input ("allocative efficiency").

14. In practice, efficiency savings could be identified in two possible ways as:

(a) The difference between the actual past or current appropriation and the related expenditures, provided that the relevant programme of work is fully implemented as budgeted and the content, volume and quality of outputs as well as the level and quality of services are maintained or further improved; and/or

(b) An improved ratio of output per standard or budgeted unit cost, resulting in financial gains, which could sum up to an identifiable part of the uncommitted appropriation.

15. The application of the method indicated in paragraph 14 (a) above seems doubtful because it is difficult to distinguish between savings generated by improved productivity, on the one hand, and budget reductions resulting from cost avoidance and changes in programme implementation, such as downsizing or postponements, on the other. Moreover, while the General Assembly, in its budget resolutions, continues to emphasize that the resources proposed by the Secretary-General should be commensurate with all mandated programmes and activities in order to ensure their full, efficient and effective implementation, the indication in other resolutions and decisions is that additional mandates must be funded "within existing resources", therefore gradually increasing the Organization's workload without increasing its funding. As a result, resources released from the discontinuation of some outputs and from efficiency savings, if any, had been redirected to priority programmes of work and thus were not available for transfer to the Development Account. Moreover, savings from efficiency measures should be treated separately from those attained by either currency fluctuations or the effects of inflation rate variances.

16. The second method, indicated in paragraph 14 (b), consists of costing each output during preparation of the budget and comparing it with the actual implementation cost of delivery of related products and services. While that method is more accurate than the first one, it requires an established cost-accounting system in place, which, through comparison of the budgeted and actual cost of outputs (products and services), would make it possible to identify efficiency savings. As indicated in the note of the Secretary-General on the introduction of a cost-accounting system (A/60/714, para. 6), the report on the feasibility of introducing a cost-accounting system for the United Nations will be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session. Moreover, since, in accordance with rule 105.1 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the level of financial resources is established at the subprogramme level, costs at the output level have not been determined. In essence, even if a cost-accounting system were in place, as indicated above, the tendency of programme managers, presented with indicative efficiency savings, would be to retain them to meet additional mandates and workloads rather than to surrender them to the Development Account.

Effectively, therefore, the question of transferring $5 million to the Development Account becomes a question of the priority assigned to the need for such in light of all other demands for funds.

17. The possibility remains open of suspending the provisions of financial regulations 5.3 and 5.4 in respect of any surpluses (unencumbered balances) under the regular budget arising at the end of a financial period for the purpose of transferring a share of such funds to the Development Account. However, any decision to do so would be based on the priority assigned to such action and not the specific identification of efficiency savings.

V. Experience in the identification of savings

18. Since the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Creating a dividend for development" (A/51/950/Add.5) in October 1997, a number of reports of the Secretary-General on enhancing cost-effectiveness and management improvement measures have been issued, including on enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates (A/52/685), reduction and refocusing of non-programme costs (A/52/758), efficient and effective measures for management improvement (E/AC.51/2002/2), progress and impact assessment of management improvement measures (A/58/70) and contribution made by the Department of Management to the improvement of management practices, and time-bound plan for the reduction of duplication, complexity and bureaucracy in the United Nations administrative processes and procedures (A/60/342). While the foregoing reports include information on the implementation of measures designed to increase efficiency and productivity in the Secretariat, no efficiency savings have been identified as a part of the unencumbered balance of the approved budget appropriation to be transferred to the Development Account. That is attributed to the difficulty of identifying such savings with a reliable degree of precision in the absence of dependable methods, such as a cost-accounting system.

19. In its decision 52/462, the General Assembly took note of the overall unspent balance of $9,326,600 from the regular budget for the biennium 1996-1997, decided to allocate an amount of $2.5 million for the ongoing development of the Integrated Management Information System for 1998 and an amount of $1.3 million for improving and refurbishing conference facilities and also decided to retain the balance of $5,526,600 with a view to financing the activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as requested by the Assembly in paragraph 52 of its resolution 52/220. In his report on the subject of savings achieved pursuant to the ninth session of UNCTAD (A/52/898), the Secretary-General indicated, however, that the Secretariat was not in a position to characterize the reduced level of resources proposed for UNCTAD as "savings" attributable to the ninth session of the Conference or a response to resolution 50/215, in which the Assembly requested the identification of economies. Accordingly, in its resolution 53/3, the Assembly regretted the lack of clear information concerning the savings achieved pursuant to the ninth session of the Conference, including the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery and the reform of the secretariat.

20. In the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services: report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/60/346), the Office identified the sum of $18 million as "saved and recovered", including

$0.7 million relating to recoveries and $17 million relating to reduced expenditures, as shown in table 1 of the report. Given the nature of the reported "savings", they should not be considered to be available for transfer to the Development Account. The total amount of $17.7 million may be broken down as follows:

(a) $13,800,000 relates to savings under peacekeeping missions — the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations Mission in Liberia — which were to be surrendered in accordance with financial regulation 5.5 and further set off against Member States' apportionment of future assessments in accordance with financial regulation 3.2 (d) and with the provision of the related General Assembly resolutions for the financing of each peacekeeping mission;

(b) $1,890,000 relates to extrabudgetary resources, which, in accordance with related agreements and memorandums of understanding, should be reprogrammed or returned to donors;

(c) $1,564,800 represents parts of unencumbered balances of the 2004-2005 appropriations of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia ($21,962,900 net) and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda ($3,875,900 net), for which the provisions for application of credits under financial regulations 3.2 (d), 5.3 and 5.4 were suspended by the General Assembly in its resolutions 60/243 and 60/241, respectively;

(d) $730,000 relates to a total of 51 recommendations, consolidated in the report, that do not identify the source of funds to which they are associated. In some cases, they refer to previous audit recommendations for earlier financial periods which had already been closed.

VI. Conclusion

21. **In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 52/12 B, section II, and 54/15, surpluses from efficiency gains should be identified in the context of budget performance reports and credited to the Development Account. However, in the absence of a reliable method to determine the cost of outputs and services, efficiency savings could not be identified with the desirable extent of precision. Therefore, the Secretary-General is not in a position, at this stage, to make recommendations on how additional resources in the region of $5 million could be added to the Development Account. It will be recalled, however, that the Assembly, in its resolution 60/246, decided that the Development Account shall be recosted for the biennium 2006-2007. The results of that exercise have led to an initial appropriation of $13,954,100 as compared with $13,065,000, in previous bienniums, an increase of $889,100.**

22. **Under financial regulations 5.3 and 5.4, surpluses arising from regular budget operations at the end of the financial period are to be returned to Member States. Those financial regulations have been suspended on a number of occasions as a measure to deal with the Organization's financial problems or to finance specific activities related to the reform of intergovernmental machinery and the restructuring of the Secretariat. However, any decisions in that regard relate exclusively to the role of the Assembly in carrying out a**

thorough analysis and approval of human and financial resources. Therefore, any future increase in funding levels for the Development Account is subject to the Assembly's consideration of competing priorities that exist for the use of the overall United Nations programme budget.

VII. Recommendation

23. In taking note of the present report, the General Assembly may wish to decide whether the recosting of the Development Account should be continued beyond the current biennium. At the same time, the Assembly may wish, in the light of competing priorities, to revert, at its sixty-second session, to consideration of the use of budget surpluses at the end of the current financial period as a means of increasing the funding level of the Development Account.

United Nations A/61/283

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 60 of the provisional agenda*
Advancement of women

Letter dated 18 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward information regarding progress in the implementation of Uzbekistan's National Plan of Action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly under item 60 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

* A/61/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 18 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Information regarding progress in the implementation of Uzbekistan's National Plan of Action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
1. Absence of a definition of discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention, prohibiting both direct and indirect discrimination in the Constitution and domestic laws. Application of the provisions of the Convention by judicial bodies.	The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan recognizes the universally accepted norms of international law; it thus provides for implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women by all State, territorial and judicial bodies.	The protection of women's rights and freedoms is guaranteed under the Basic Law — the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan (arts. 18, 46, 63, 65). State employment policy is based, in particular, on the following principles: ensuring equal opportunities in the exercise of the right to work and unrestricted choice of employment for all citizens irrespective of gender, age, race, ethnic origin, language, social, financial or official status, attitude to religion, beliefs, membership of public associations and other considerations unrelated to an employee's aptitude for work and performance (Labour Act, 1998). In addition, the Labour Code envisages a number of benefits for women, such as additional leisure time, reduced working hours, and guarantees in the event of termination of an employment contract by the employer. The Education Act provides for equal rights to education for all citizens, irrespective of gender, race, ethnic origin, language, social, financial or official status, attitude to religion, beliefs, or membership of public associations. The text of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women has been translated into the Uzbek language and widely printed; it is distributed free of charge at all seminars, meetings and other events held by State, public and non-governmental organizations to raise awareness of the provisions of the Convention.

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
		The monitoring group jointly established by the Women's Committee and the Ombudsman to monitor the implementation of the Convention in the regions prepares an analytical report every year on the basis of its findings, which is then sent to local authorities of the regions for relevant action. Special radio programmes to raise awareness of the provisions of the Convention have been developed in all regions and articles and features published in magazines and newspapers. Parliamentary checks on the implementation of the Convention are periodically conducted by committees of the two chambers of Parliament.
2. The drafting of a bill on equal opportunities for women and men.	Study the issue and make relevant proposals; Regularly monitor the implementation of domestic legislation in the field of women's rights; submit proposals to Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers.	The National Centre for Human Rights has drafted a bill on equal rights and equal opportunities which was discussed at a joint seminar with State and non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians and international organizations. The bill is currently under expert review within the various ministries of the Republic. The Ombudsman has conducted an analysis of the legislation in force in the field of women's rights by means of monitoring studies carried out with the participation of local authorities, self-governing bodies, non-governmental organizations and the information media: • Respect for the rights of mothers, children and low-income families to receive welfare benefits in the Syrdarya region (2001); • Prevention of crime among adolescents in the Fergana region (2001); • Respect for the rights of women entrepreneurs in the Bukhara region; • Ensuring the rights of children to secondary specialized and vocational education in the Khorezm region (2002); • Ensuring the reproductive rights of women in the Dzhizak region (2002); • Rehabilitation of adolescents in the Tashkent region (2003); • Respect for and protection of the rights of paediatric patients in the Samarkand region (2003);

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
		• Ensuring the legal protection of the labour rights of citizens in the Navoi region (2003); • Respect for and protection of the rights of paediatric patients in the Samarkand region (2003); • Respect for the rights of patients in medical institutions in the Fergana, Andizhan and Namangan regions (2003); • Respect for the right of access to the courts in the Surkhandarin, Kashkadarin and Tashkent regions and in the city of Tashkent (2004); • Ensuring the rights and legal interests of property owners in the Republic of Uzbekistan (2005-2006). In the second half of 2006, a monitoring study will be carried out on ensuring the labour rights of women in light industrial enterprises in the Fergana Valley. Based on the outcome of these studies, analyses will be prepared and sent for action to the various parliamentary committees, the Cabinet of Ministers, relevant ministries and territorial authorities.
3. The development of special study programmes and the revision of school syllabuses and textbooks with a view to overcoming patriarchal attitudes and patriarchal modes of behaviour towards women.	Develop and introduce special programmes for all types of educational institutions with a view to enhancing women's role in society; On the basis of special programmes in educational institutions, *makhallyas*, enterprises and organizations, organize study courses on a monthly basis to raise legal awareness among women, with the participation of top legal experts and practising lawyers.	Special programmes have been developed and implemented to advocate gender equality and combat gender stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes. Issues such as education and the law and the cultural and educational origins of the legal equality of women and men are also studied as part of the syllabus in culture studies and moral education in higher educational institutions. Over the past two years, more than 12,500 seminars, 1,750 round tables and 1,575 meetings have been held on the above-mentioned issues and 1,423 women's representatives have received information about the following international legal instruments: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Cairo Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Women's rights studies are conducted on a monthly basis in the Republic's *makhallyas* with the participation of top legal experts, political scientists and other specialists.

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations	Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified
		Health studies have been introduced into junior and secondary school syllabuses with the assistance of UNFPA, UNESCO and UNICEF, and colourful visual aids have been developed to promote a healthy lifestyle and prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS.
4. Insufficient media campaigns to combat stereotypes.	At the national and regional levels, organize television and radio programmes and press articles to promote equality between women and men.	Special programmes on human rights are broadcast every week on national television, including programmes on the protection of the rights and interests of women. Weekly educational programmes are also broadcast on the radio. Representatives of non-governmental organizations actively participate in the preparation of such programmes. In the first half of 2006 alone, some 300 news articles and photographic materials relating to gender equality were produced by Uzbekistan's national information agency.
5. Adoption of measures to increase the number of women in decision-making bodies, including temporary special measures; organization of special educational programmes to increase awareness in this area.	Introduce proposals for amendments and additions to the legislation in force with a view to increasing the number of women in decision-making bodies;	Article 22 of the Elections Act has been supplemented by a provision that establishes a 30 per cent quota for female candidates from political parties for election to the bicameral Parliament. At the beginning of 2005, women accounted for 16 per cent and men for 84 per cent of members of the legislature, the executive branch and the judiciary combined. The corresponding figures for the legislative and representative bodies were 15.2 and 84.8 per cent, respectively; for the executive bodies, 3.4 and 96.6 per cent; and for the judicial authorities, 22.7 and 77.3 per cent. At present, women head the Federation of Trade Unions, and also 29 per cent of national trade union associations, 22 per cent of territorial trade union associations, 24 per cent of trade union bodies at the regional, city and district levels and 39 per cent of grass-roots trade union organizations. The number of female teachers in Uzbekistan's higher educational institutions is 7,980 (36 per cent of the total number of lecturers and teaching staff in higher educational institutions nationwide). A total of 86,620 female students are attending higher educational institutions around the country, constituting 39 per cent of the total number of

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
		higher educational students nationwide. Of the 447,129 teachers working in general educational institutions, 294,116 (65.7 per cent) are women.
	Create a pool of female staff in all ministries, departments and organizations;	A pool of professional female staff has been created in all ministries, departments and territorial authorities.
	Organize training for the above-mentioned pool of female staff at the Presidential Academy for the Development of State and Society, the Business Academy and other educational institutions with a view to enhancing their knowledge of politics, law and economics;	The number of female students attending the Presidential Academy for the Development of State and Society, the Business Academy and other educational institutions has increased. During the period 2001-2006, 38 women graduated from the Presidential Academy for the Development of State and Society and 11 from the Business Academy; since graduation they have been working in managerial positions in various fields. Between September and November 2005, 197 female managers upgraded their qualifications at the Presidential Academy for the Development of State and Society.
	Organize a series of seminars and educational activities in order to publicize the experience of prominent women and their achievements in politics, business and other areas;	The Women's Committee, in collaboration with other public organizations, has held more than 3,000 seminars to discuss ways to increase women's participation.
	Incorporate information on prominent women in the second edition of the Women's Encyclopedia.	The second edition of the Women's Encyclopedia has been published, containing information on prominent women.
6. Attainment of equality between men and women in all areas, giving women ownership of their rights.	Implement State programmes to strengthen the role of women in the development of State and society;	In all regions, districts, cities and towns of Uzbekistan, the following State programmes are under implementation: – Programme on priority actions to increase health awareness in the family and to improve the health of women and children (2002-2007); – Programme of organizational and promotional measures to ensure the implementation of Presidential Decree No. 3434 of 25 May 2004 on additional measures to support the activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan; – Mother and child screening programme;

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
		— Local employment programmes for women for 2005-2007.
		Under these programmes, measures are being implemented to enhance the role of women in society, increase their participation in all areas of life, ensure that they have opportunities for employment, improve their health and prevent crime and suicide among them.
		The implementation of these measures is reviewed quarterly at meetings of the Standing Committee headed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
	Develop promotional materials and pamphlets on women's rights.	The Women's Committee, in collaboration with the Institute for monitoring legislation in force, has developed a "Legal Handbook", a practical guide entitled "Gender on the agenda", "Women's rights — human rights", "The Voices of Central Asian Women", teaching aids on gender issues for higher educational institutions and other materials.
	Hold seminars, meetings and talks on the subjects of "Women and the law", "One law for all" and "Do you know your rights?" in educational institutions, companies, other institutions and *makhallyas*;	In all labour collectives, educational institutions and *makhallyas*, round-table meetings, talks and training sessions are held to expand the legal and general knowledge of women and girls. More than 4,800 seminars and training sessions on human rights and gender issues have been held under the National Programme of Action on Human Rights. Round-table meetings and annual national review conferences are also held to take stock of the preceding year.
	Organize special features in women's magazines and newspapers and on the television and radio to help enhance legal awareness among women.	The national information media at all levels cover issues that help to increase the legal literacy and legal awareness of women. Radio programmes providing information on women's rights are broadcast weekly.
7. Formulation of a comprehensive and integrated gender policy.	Review the practical activities undertaken by ministries, departments and legal and territorial bodies to achieve gender equality, and formulate of concrete recommendations on ways to strengthen those activities;	One of the mechanisms for monitoring compliance with civil rights is the conduct of surveys among different sectors of the population, the results of which are used to assess the activities of territorial bodies to achieve gender equality and draw up recommendations and proposals for the strengthening of gender equality. Seminars on gender issues are regularly organized by all relevant bodies in collaboration with international organizations; a gender and development office has

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
		been set up by a non-governmental organization to train specialists in these issues for ministries and departments; and a statistical report entitled "Women and men of Uzbekistan" is published every year.
	Conduct a gender analysis of national laws in force, and draft proposals for their improvement.	A gender analysis of the Labour Code and the Family Code has been carried out with the participation of women's non-governmental organizations, and proposals have been drawn up for the improvement of those instruments. Since 1998, the Institute for monitoring legislation in force has been carrying out gender analyses of existing and newly adopted national laws.
8. Review of the mandate of existing national mechanisms with a view to the effective gender mainstreaming of their policies and programmes.	Develop and implement measures to enhance the role of women in society, maintain gender balance in all sectors of society, increase legal awareness among women and ensure their participation in elections to representative bodies at all levels;	Since 1998, State programmes have been adopted each year to strengthen the role of women in the family and in society, enhance their legal and economic knowledge and ensure their social welfare. Conferences on ways to strengthen the decision-making role of women are held twice a year. Additional budget funds are allocated for the implementation of all State programmes.
	Organize a round table, with the participation of all bodies concerned with women's issues, on ways to enhance their work on the basis of the recommendations of CEDAW.	
9. Strengthening of existing national mechanisms concerned with women's issues at all levels.	Organize regular seminars to raise awareness among staff holding positions of responsibility in organizations concerned with women's issues on ways of ensuring gender equality in society and of raising the status of women.	In Uzbekistan, a national mechanism has been established, and is being strengthened every year, to improve the status of women in the legislature and the executive branch. Issues relating to female political leadership are developed and explored. Since the year 2000, representatives of non-governmental organizations have met with parliamentarians, government officials and representatives of political parties every three months to discuss priority areas of the Programme of Action, one of which is enhancement of the role of women in society. Within the first six months of 2006 alone, two international conferences on female political leadership and two forums of

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
		women's non-governmental organizations were held in Uzbekistan.
10. Protection of women against violence, including domestic violence; Organization of training activities to raise awareness among women of all forms of violence.	Conduct wide-ranging activities to raise awareness among women with regard to benefits available to them under the Civil Code, the Labour Code and other laws; Develop popular resources and pamphlets on those subjects; Organize talks in the *makhallyas* on the subject of the responsibilities of men and women towards the family, and undertake publicity work to raise awareness of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;	Comprehensive efforts are being undertaken in Uzbekistan to prevent domestic violence. This work is being carried out by *makhallya* and women's committees, prevention officers serving in police departments and other organizations. During the first half of 2006, prevention officers alone handled 58,880 complaints, 13,756 of which related to family and domestic issues. The above-mentioned bodies hold meetings (55,000 meetings during the first six months of 2006) with the participation of the general public to address issues relating to respect for women's rights. During the meetings, the provisions of the Family Code and the Criminal Code are discussed extensively, and there is a great deal of focus on the formation among men of a responsible attitude towards the family. At present, 20,393 domestic violence offenders are registered with police departments, and are worked with individually. During the same period, 7 social rehabilitation centres and 25 crisis centres and family welfare centres were opened, all of which are supported by the State. Training is being provided under special programmes to six target groups: *khokimiyat* employees, law enforcement officers, leaders of the *Makhallya* and of the youth movement "Kamolot", religious leaders and the information media.
11. Organization of training on gender issues for all officials, law enforcement officers, *khokimiyat* officials and *makhallya* members.	Conduct training in gender issues for law enforcement officers and officials of *khokimiyats* and self-governing bodies; Organize broadcasts on national and local television and radio concerning violence against women and measures to prevent it.	All of the aforementioned television and radio programmes on women's rights address issues relating to the prevention of domestic violence.

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
12. Lack of information on and policies to address the problem of trafficking in women and girls.	Systematically monitor cases of trafficking in women and girls and submit reports on the issue every three months to the Cabinet of Ministers.	In 2003, a State commission on the prevention of trafficking in persons was established comprising representatives of State, law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organizations. A national plan of action to prevent trafficking in persons has been prepared and adopted.
13. Criminal prosecution of persons engaging in trafficking in women, and adoption of measures necessary to prevent trafficking.	Ensure criminal prosecution of persons engaged in trafficking in persons, in accordance with the established procedure.	Specialized units have been set up in criminal investigation and crime prevention departments to combat and prevent offences involving illegal exploitation of and trafficking in persons. During the first half of 2006, 135 offences were recorded under article 135 of the Criminal Code, and 107 persons were identified as perpetrators (in 2005, 119 such offences were committed, and 87 persons were identified as perpetrators). In order to prevent offences involving illegal exploitation of and trafficking in persons, large-scale activities are being undertaken to raise public awareness. Special focus is given to persons in at-risk groups who most commonly fall victim to such crimes. At all stages of the preparation of documents authorizing travel abroad, and at customs points and border crossing points, all the law enforcement agencies concerned work to detect women who are potential victims of trafficking. Persons leaving the country are informed of the penalties applicable in cases of violation of the laws of other countries, particularly those relating to illegal migration for the purpose of employment and engagement in illicit activities. The activities of travel agencies which arrange travel abroad for young people are monitored by police departments. All State authorities and non-governmental organizations are involved in efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
14. Adoption of urgent measures to prevent a decline in the number of women who receive higher education.	Formulate and implement measures to encourage talented girls and foster interest in learning among girls in general; Organize campaigns to provide young rural girls with information on the sciences, prominent female scientists and talented young women and their achievements; Strengthen the activities of branches of the Olima Association of Women Scientists.	Women account for 39 per cent of the students in higher educational institutions. Targeted activities are being carried out to increase the number of women attending Uzbekistan's higher educational institutions, and in particular to improve the legal and general knowledge of girls, especially those from rural areas. In order to ensure that girls have access to higher education, on 28 February 2006 the legislative chamber of Parliament, along with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education and the Women's Committee, organized a workshop on the topic, "Social welfare for students with families". The State Zulfiya Prize was established by presidential decree to encourage particularly talented girls, and is awarded each year on the eve of International Women's Day (8 March). The number of women in the sciences is increasing; women currently account for 45.3 per cent of post-graduate students and 37.1 per cent of doctoral students. Women's organizations have been mobilized to encourage girls to join interest groups, and seminars are being held on gender equality and equal opportunities in education.
15. Adoption and implementation of measures to prevent unemployment among women and discrimination in the hiring, training, promotion and dismissal of women.	Develop special programmes to provide employment for women, while respecting women's labour rights.	By a decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 29 June 2004, a special programme of measures was approved to implement the presidential decree of 25 May 2004 on additional measures to support the activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan. One section of the programme is devoted to providing employment and ensuring women's social and labour rights, with State budgetary funding providing no less than 217,600 unemployed women each year with jobs. In accordance with the above-mentioned State programme, territorial employment programmes for women have been developed and implemented since 2005. In the first half of 2006, 137,800 jobs for women were created in Uzbekistan, representing 63 per cent of annual recruitment. Efforts are under way with respect to microcredit and credit allocation to female entrepreneurs. In seven of the Republic's regions, credit unions have

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
		been established, currently serving more than 6,000 members.
	Collect data on female unemployment disaggregated by region, city and district, and implement regional programmes to provide jobs to unemployed women, based on each region's capacities;	Local women's committees along with regional mechanisms under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare have created a database of women seeking employment, and training-to-work programmes have been developed for such women. This training also aims to raise women's legal awareness and explain State benefits, and the provisions of the Labour Code and other laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
	Ensure implementation of the Labour Code in every enterprise and organization that employs women. Raise awareness of the benefits available to women;	No cases of discrimination against women were identified by State labour inspectors during routine checks on the Republic's enterprises and organizations, covering 542 enterprises and organizations, in the first half of 2006. In each enterprise or organization where checks are carried out, efforts are made to raise awareness of the benefits available to women under the labour legislation.
		Last year, more than 600,000 women received supplementary leave, 20,000 women received one to two months' supplementary leave at their employers' expense in addition to the maternity leave provided for by law, and 200,000 women with large families who had pre-school children were granted a shorter workday and given financial support. More than 40,000 women on maternity leave to care for children between two and three years old receive financial support (State benefits are payable until the child reaches its second birthday), and all working women with children under three years old are entitled to a shorter work day.
		Seminars to raise the legal awareness of workers are held in all workplaces thanks to the efforts of trade unionists, management and non-governmental organizations.
	Carry out preparations to accede to the ILO Conventions concerning Night Work of Women Employed in Industry, and Employment of Women on Underground Work in Mines of all Kinds and the ILO	Preparations have been made to accede to the Night Work (Women) Convention, the Underground Work (Women) Convention and the Recommendation concerning the Employment of Women with Family Responsibilities. Coordination activities are under way between relevant ministries and departments, after which proposals will be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
	Recommendation concerning the Employment of Women with Family Responsibilities.	Under article 225 of the Labour Code, which came into force on 1 April 1996, the employment of women to perform underground work is prohibited, with the exception of certain types of underground work (non-manual work or cleaning and maintenance work).
16. Conducting regular surveys of legislation with a view to reducing obstacles for women in the labour market.	Organize a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of legislation and regulations as well as government decisions relating to women's work, and formulate recommendations.	In 2004, an analysis was made of compliance with legislation in the field of labour relations and recommendations were formulated for enhancing the status of women. In the second half of 2006, regional representatives of the Ombudsman will monitor observance of women's rights to supplementary guarantees and benefits under the labour legislation.
17. Creation of special training and retraining programmes for different groups of unemployed women.	Adopt measures to train, retrain and upgrade the skills of unemployed women, based on labour market requirements; Enable businesswomen to participate in the work of international symposia and conferences, as well as exhibitions and fairs.	The Centre for Market Infrastructure Development under Uzbekistan's Chamber of Commerce and Industry organizes special courses for women on an ongoing basis, such as "Start Your Own Business" and "Understanding Business". Last year, 350 women received training. The Centre has branches in seven of the Republic's regions and in 2005, 1,528 entrepreneurs received training, including 611 women; in 2006, 1,029 entrepreneurs are to receive training, including 476 women. With a view to encouraging the activities of the Republic's entrepreneurs and at the initiative of the President of the Republic, a competition known as "*Tashabbus*" is held each year with the active participation of women. In 2006, 13 of the 41 participants in this national competition were women. Female entrepreneurs also upgrade their skills in other countries.
18. Collection of comprehensive, gender-disaggregated data on the economic sector.	Collect comprehensive data on women's employment in all sectors and, on that basis, organize employment-generating activities for women tailored to opportunities in the labour market.	An analysis has been made of women's employment in all sectors. In 2004, some 4,356,300 women and 5,554,300 men were employed in the national economy (44 per cent and 56 per cent respectively). Women are, on the whole, less economically active than men: 63.2 per cent compared to 78.5 per cent. Traditional fields of work for women include health, education, culture, the arts, science and scientific support services (in which the proportion of women is 73 to 75 per cent).

	Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
			Over the past two years, regional programmes on generating employment for women have aimed to provide work for unemployed women (217,600 jobs per year), with a particular focus on setting up small and medium-sized businesses.
19.	Improvement of women's reproductive health	Ensure the attainment of the goals set out in the State programmes "For a Healthy Generation" and "Mother and Child". Develop and implement a State programme for enhancing reproductive health and a culture of health in young families, and among girls and women;	The following government decisions are being implemented by the joint efforts of relevant State bodies and public organizations: – Ordinance No. 242 of the Cabinet of Ministers of 5 July 2002 on measures to achieve the priorities for enhancing a culture of health in the family and to improve women's health, childbirth and the raising of healthy children; – Ordinance No. 32 of the Cabinet of Ministers of 25 January 2002 on additional measures to improve the health of women and the younger generation; – Ordinance No. 515 of the Cabinet of Ministers of 2 November 2004 on the Asian Development Bank's project for improvement of the health of women and children; – Ordinance No. 365 of the Cabinet of Ministers of 25 August 2002 approving the statute on premarital medical check-ups for individuals entering marriage; – Ordinance No. 153 of the Cabinet of Ministers of 11 August 2005 on measures to implement the national programme for the fortification of flour; – Strategic programme to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS for 2003-2006. Regional, district and municipal programmes are being implemented on the basis of the above-mentioned programmes. The implementation of the State programmes to enhance the health of women and children is coordinated by a government commission headed by the deputy Prime Minister responsible for health. Thanks to efforts to improve reproductive health, the birth rate was 20.4 per 1,000 in 2005 compared to 34.5 per 1,000 in 1991. The maternal death rate decreased from 34.1 per 100,000 live births in 2001 to 30.8 in 2005.

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
		The proportion of children born at an interval of less than one year dropped from 0.3 per cent in 2001 to 0 per cent in 2005, and the proportion born less than two years apart fell from 7.1 per cent to 5.7 per cent respectively; inter-birth intervals of more than two years increased from 92.4 per cent to 94.3 per cent (the number of women giving birth for the first time increased from 34.9 per cent in 2001 to 39.7 per cent in 2005).
	Raise awareness at the local level among women, men and young people of how to form a healthy family and improve reproductive health;	All State and public organizations carry out awareness-raising activities at the local level on forming a healthy family and protecting reproductive rights and reproductive health. In the first six months of 2006 alone, more than 23,000 seminars, meetings and talks have been held on this issue. Medical/social home-visiting initiatives have been organized to provide diagnoses, treatment and social assistance to inhabitants of the Republic's remoter districts. In the first six months of 2006, medical and social home-visiting teams in more than 2,000 of the Republic's *makhallyas* studied the social situation of families and the state of health of the population, especially of women and children.
	Develop scientifically based recommendations for measures to be implemented by employers to protect mothers-to-be from occupational hazards and to prevent such hazards.	A comprehensive programme of structural, technical and health and hygiene measures to improve working conditions for women has been drafted and is being implemented. Women taking up a job in unfavourable working conditions are offered a medical check-up free of charge. All working women undergo medical check-ups and, where necessary, rehabilitative treatment is recommended for women experiencing health problems. The sanitary regulations on maximum permissible loads for women have been revised and a list of occupations with unfavourable working conditions for which the use of female labour is either partially or wholly prohibited has been approved by a government decision. Agencies of the health and epidemiological service conduct regular health and safety reviews of women's working conditions by means of laboratory research and instrument readings and monitor compliance with health and safety norms and regulations and other instruments.

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
20. Improvement of family-planning policy. Implementation of measures to prevent unwanted pregnancies and ensure access to modern forms of contraception.	Strengthen the effectiveness of public awareness-raising activities on ways of preventing unwanted pregnancies, the importance of birth-spacing and the harmful consequences of abortion.	The Ministry of Health, together with State and non-governmental organizations, conducts comprehensive public awareness-raising activities on preventing unwanted pregnancies and ensuring proper birth-spacing and holds meetings on this issue; as a result, childhood and maternity indicators are showing an improvement. With a view to improving the health of women of childbearing age, preventing unwanted pregnancies and promoting birth spacing, all types of contraceptives are provided to women free of charge by the Government. This issue is discussed on a quarterly basis at meetings of the standing governmental commission on priorities for enhancing a culture of health in the family and improving the health of women and children.
	Organize regular meetings between health workers and women of childbearing age in women's clinics and *makhallyas* on reproductive health issues and the use of modern means of contraception.	In all women's clinics and other health centres, with the participation of health workers, public organizations and charities, talks are held on modern means of contraception, where to obtain them and how to use them.
21. Advocating a healthy lifestyle for women (combating the incidence of smoking among women).	Organize special talks, meetings and panel discussions on maintaining a healthy lifestyle; Raise awareness of the impact on women's health of alcohol, tobacco and narcotic drugs.	The Health Institute, which has branches in all regions of the Republic, with the participation of *makhallya* activists, women's committees, youth organizations and other non-governmental organizations — systematically works to raise women's awareness of the following topics in order to advocate a healthy lifestyle: prevention of early marriages and marriages between relatives; early and late pregnancy; complications experienced by women who have multiple and frequent pregnancies; the optimal interval between births; prevention of unwanted pregnancies; modern methods of contraception; prevention of iodine deficiency and anaemia; advantages of breast-feeding.

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		Booklets, brochures, leaflets and videos have been produced to advocate a healthy lifestyle. Medical and social home-visiting teams work in all regions to raise public awareness and advocate a healthy lifestyle (through campaigns, conferences, talks and meetings).
22. Organization of sex education classes in the Republic's schools.	Provide young people with moral, psychological, physical and medical training to prepare them for family life, formulate a series of recommendations and develop teaching aids on the subject; Organize talks in schools with adolescents on the topics: development of the body in adolescence, and, basic hygiene for girls and boys.	All these issues are covered in school syllabuses and are presented to children and adolescents by health specialists as follows: – First to fourth year of school: health lessons; – Fifth to ninth year: the rudiments of health; – Fifth to seventh year: adolescence; – Tenth to eleventh year: the foundations of family health. A series of booklets, videos and educational aids are developed each year with State and private funding and distributed free of charge to schoolchildren, students, young wives and young mothers. All civil registration offices hold "Young Family" classes for young people wishing to start a family. The "Soglom Avlod Uchun" foundation is responsible for implementing the "Adolescence" programme in all the Republic's general educational institutions, reaching 36,000 adolescents in 2006.
23. Developing and implementing environmental measures aimed at protecting the health of women and children.	Develop and implement a range of measures to improve the health of women and children.	Wide-ranging programmes entitled "Women and the Environment" and "Children, the Environment and Health" aimed at improving the environment and thereby protecting the health of women and children have been developed and are being implemented by the "Ekosan" foundation and other relevant organizations. In the framework of Environment and Health Days, a range of nature-conservation activities and wide-scale awareness-raising initiatives are carried out on issues of the environment and the protection of the health of women and children. In view of the worsening situation arising from the Aral Sea drought, "Ekosan" "health trains" are being dispatched to districts experiencing unfavourable environmental conditions. These mobile out-patient clinics transport humanitarian

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		supplies and their teams of highly qualified specialists carry out comprehensive screening in fully equipped medical offices on the trains and provide medical check-ups to inhabitants of remote regions. In 2006, the health trains provided humanitarian assistance to a total of 600 million sum to various regions; 70 per cent of the population screened were women and children.
24. Prevention of suicide among women.	Organize a survey on low-income families in the Republic's regions, conduct individualized awareness-raising activities; Provide courses for women in *makhallyas* to raise their legal awareness; Help unemployed women find work.	At meetings of the Government commission on the implementation of presidential decree No. 3434 of 25 May 2004 on additional measures to support the activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, the work of the regional women's committees with at-risk families and women in crisis is discussed on a quarterly basis, as are the activities of law-enforcement and health agencies in this domain. The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan coordinates the work of women's non-governmental organizations and existing crisis centres dealing with this issue.
25. Adoption of measures to eliminate polygamy.	With a view to preventing cases of polygamy among men: raise public awareness of the provisions of the Family and Criminal Codes; strengthen activities to develop men's sense of responsibility towards the family; Use the information media to raise public awareness of the negative consequences of polygamy.	Punishment for polygamy is provided for in article 126 of the Criminal Code. However, in the first half of 2006, 22 cases of polygamy were registered. At all seminars aimed at raising legal awareness, the relevant legislative provisions are explained. (There have been more than 6,000 such seminars held in the Republic over the past two years.) Issues of family responsibility are given broad coverage in television and radio programmes, newspapers and magazines.
26. Introduction of mechanisms to address women's mental health problems.	Establish "crisis centres" for the social, psychological and legal rehabilitation of women and adolescents under the auspices of the *Oila* (Family) centre and its regional departments.	Crisis centres have been established in all regions to provide the necessary assistance to women and adolescents. Women receive legal and psychological assistance and health checks as and when required. By a presidential decree of 2004, new posts of consultants on religious, spiritual and moral education were introduced in self-government bodies. These consultatnts are

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		responsible for carrying out work with low-income families, women in difficult circumstances, women offenders with unsatisfactory lifestyles, etc.
27. Adoption of measures to eliminate early marriages.	Conduct awareness-raising activities among parents and young people on the negative consequences of early marriages;	Relevant State, public and non-governmental organizations carry out work to promote a healthy lifestyle, covering issues relating to the prevention of early marriages. In addition, these topics are discussed quarterly at meetings of the Standing Committee of the Cabinet of Ministers on priorities in enhancing a culture of health in families and improving the health of women and children. In recent years, the number of early marriages has shown a decreasing trend (with 70 such marriages in 2004, compared to 58 in 2005).
	Organize a quarterly appraisal of ongiong measures in cooperation with relevant organizations; develop and implement further initiatives on this issue.	A bill to raise the marriageable age of girls to 18 years is currently before the Legislative Chamber of Parliament.
28. Development of special measures to ensure the social welfare of rural women.	Study the living and working conditions of rural women and develop social programmes to improve those conditions;	Local employment-generating programmes for women focus first and foremost on the interests of rural women. Small businesses are being established for such women and home-based work is organized for women with children.
	Adopt measures for the promotion of small and medium-sized businesses among rural women;	Women wishing to set up their own businesses are invited to special training programmes at the centre for the development of market infrastructure, the association of businesswomen and other such organizations. In addition, by special presidential decree (No. 308 of 2006), low-income families with children have, since 2006, been allocated one head of livestock (some 25,000 families have received livestock). These families are given loans to enable them to develop their livestock-rearing businesses, and work-books are issued to family members.
	Enhance medical and social home-visiting initiatives in rural areas;	Under a programme of medical and social home-visiting, health centres provide full coverage of the consultation and treatment needs of women and children in rural areas.
	Organize seminars in each region on the topic "Women and business";	The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, together with other public organizations, holds seminars for village women on various topics with a view to enhancing their level of participation and ensuring their social welfare.

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	Ensure adequate leisure facilities for women and organize sports and fitness activities.	District (town), regional and national sports competitions are organized on an annual basis, with ever-increasing participation of village girls and women. Currently, some 7 million women actively participate in national sports events. Construction and reconstruction of sports facilities is under way. In each of the Republic's 10,000 *makhallyas*, sports facilities have been established for family use.